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Filed: December 7, 1999

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In the Claims:

1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (New) A contact center comprising;

¹⁰⁶ a local area network; and ^aa first ^b and at least a second ^{b'} switching ²¹⁰ apparatus for

connecting to at least one public network, said first and at least said second switching apparatus being configured to

communicate over said local area network and arranged to

communicate with each other over said ^{local-112} area network, wherein each ⁷ switching apparatus includes:^{a1} 9 T a first ⁰³⁵ point of interface T designating a number of incoming trunks;]11 [a second point of interface S designating a number of agent stations;] ^{Interface & # of Stations}14 a third point of interface R designating a number of call processing resources; and ^{Pb, Q4 - resource for a PT, (conf, Rec, PlayOut)}19 B a fourth ^{new sheet} point of interface B designating only a number of broadband connections reserved for connecting one switching apparatus to another, wherein B is greater than or equal[✓] why - in case of failure

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to T+S.

17. (New) The contact center as claimed in claim 16 wherein T includes PSTN.

18. (New) The contact center as claimed in claim 16 wherein T includes internet telephony.

19. (New) The contact center as claimed in claim 16 wherein R includes conference, recording, and playback resources. *R*

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TDM 20. (New) The contact center as claimed in claim 16 wherein said switching apparatus includes time division multiplexing.

see P61 lines 5-8
21. (New) The contact center as claimed in claim 20 wherein a number of time lots is set such that said contact center is linearly expandable and the switching channels in an additional, newly added switching apparatus are all utilized for call switching rather than interfacing with other switching apparatus.

22. (New) The contact center as claimed in claim 21 wherein a

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number of time lots includes T+S+R+B.

See P61 Other ST

23. (New) The contact center as claimed in claim 20 wherein T, S, R, and B are set for a given number of timeslots such that said contact center is linearly expandable and the switching channels in an additional, newly added switching apparatus are all utilized for call switching rather than interfacing with other switching apparatus.

a1
24. (New) The contact center as claimed in claim 16 wherein a plurality of connections to agent stations are connected to said switching apparatuses through a legacy PBX. *Call, L50*

25. (New) The contact center as claimed in claim 16 wherein contact center includes N switching apparatus, M backup switching apparatus, and means for detecting when one of said N switching apparatus is faulty and for rerouting channels normally serviced by said faulty N switching apparatus to said backup M switching apparatus for service, said backup M apparatus being configured to service any of said faulty N switching apparatus which is detected as failing. *Backup*

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26. (New) The contact center as claimed in claim 25 wherein M
equals one.

27. (New) The contact center as claimed in claim 25 wherein M
is less than N.
